

# Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands



Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality  
Appropriations Subcommittee

January 29, 2021

Brian Cottam, Director/State Forester  
Stacy Carroll, Finance Manager



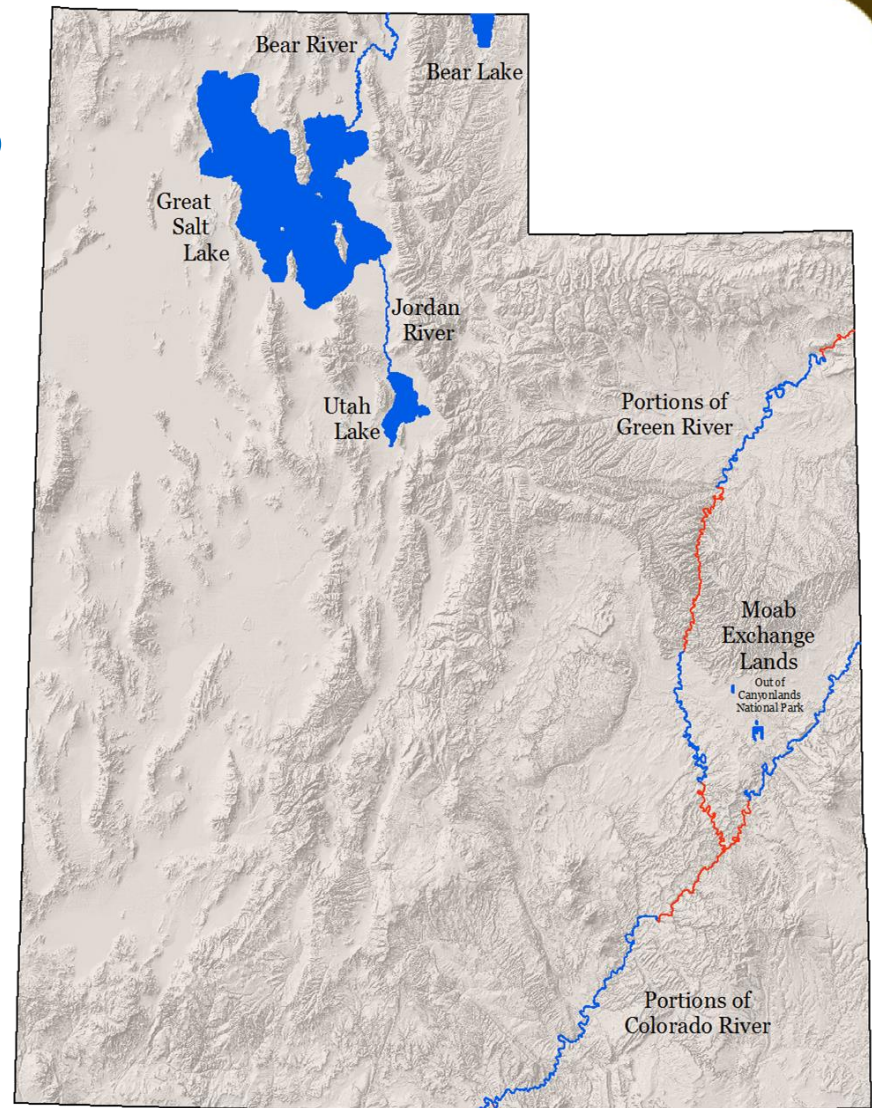
# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Brief overview of **Forestry**, **Fire** and **State Lands**
2. 2020 wildfire season statistics
3. Building block request for FY22



# SOVEREIGN LANDS

- Lands below the ordinary high water mark of navigable bodies of water at statehood
- Lands exchanged for sovereign lands
- 1.5 million acres
- 2,200 miles of shoreline





## Utah's Sovereign Lands

Sovereign lands are lands beneath navigable bodies of water at the time of statehood.

July 2012

1:2,700,000

 Sovereign Land

 Not Sovereign Land



Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Lands



# SOVEREIGN LANDS

## Multiple Use & Sustained Yield

- **Multiple Use:**  
Management of various surface and subsurface resources in a manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of this state.
- **Sustained Yield:**  
Achievement and maintenance of high level annual or periodic output of the various renewable resources of land without impairment of the productivity of the land.

65A-1-1



# **SOVEREIGN LANDS** public benefits

- Public health, safety, and welfare
- Navigation
- Water quality
- Public access and recreation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Research and education
- Economic development, commerce and jobs



# FORESTRY

Provide **forestry assistance** to private landowners, communities & local government, and other state agencies.





# FORESTRY services & programs

- Forest Stewardship
- Forest Health
- Utah Forest Action Plan
- Forest Water Quality Guidelines and monitoring
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Legacy
- Operator (industry) Registration
- Forest Practices Notification
- NRCS Technical Service Provider and EQIP-Forestry
- Shared Stewardship with US Forest Service

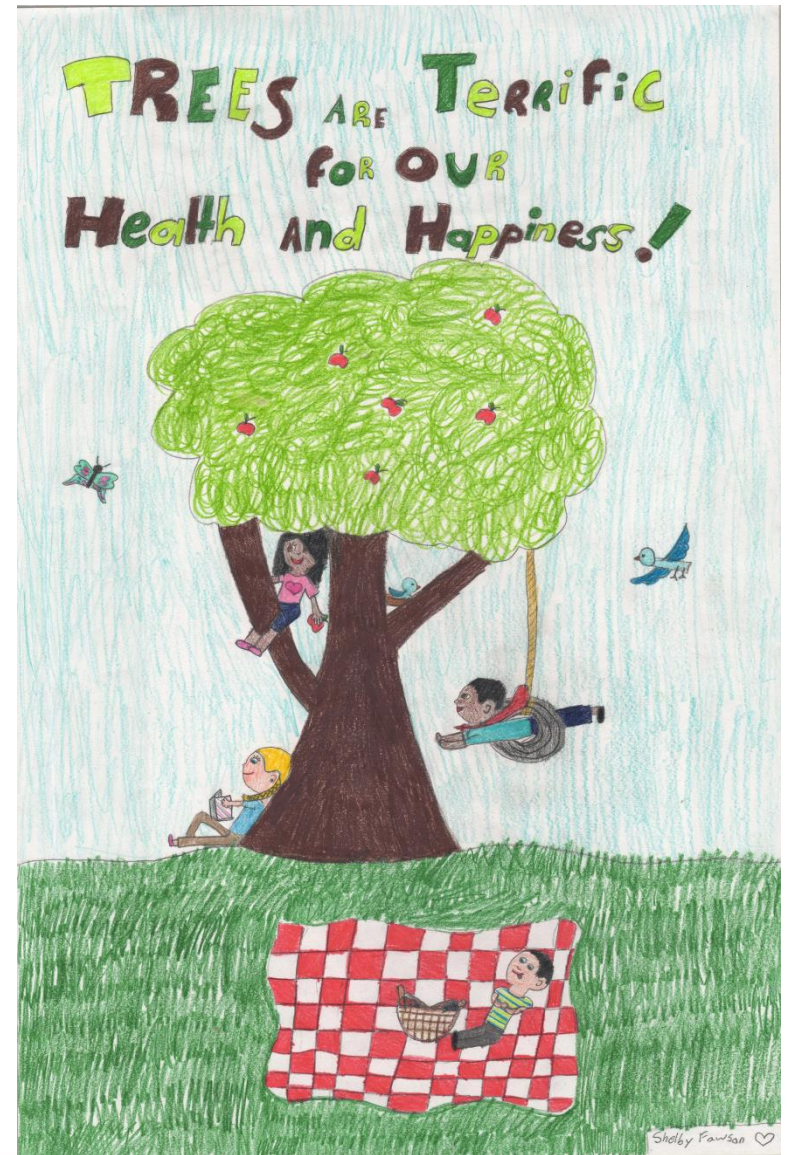
Utah Code 65A chapter 8



# FORESTRY public benefits

of well-managed private and urban forests:

- Watershed health
- Reduced wildfire risk
- Water quality and yield
- Industry and jobs
- Wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Recreation
- Municipal drinking water
- Carbon sequestration
- Increased property values
- Reduced energy use
- Reduced crime
- Linking urban residents to nature





# FIRE

Coordinate **wildland fire** management on state & private lands in cooperation with local government and other land management agencies.



# **FIRE** services & programs

- Wildfire incident management and suppression
- Wildfire Suppression Fund
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) via FEMA
- Implementation of State's Cooperative Wildfire System ("fire policy")
- Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP)
- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy ("CatFire")
  - National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management
  - National Fire Plan
- Lone Peak Conservation Center, including two elite Hotshot crews
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans & Firewise USA
- Wildland firefighter training & certification and engine academies
- Fire Department Assistance grants to local FDs
- Federal Excess Property Program (e.g., fire trucks for local FDs)

Utah Code 65A chapters 3 & 8





# Mitigating Catastrophic Wildfire in Utah

**Shared  
Stewardship**  
with USFS

**Cooperative Wildfire  
System  
(CWS)**  
with local government



**Catastrophic  
Wildfire  
Reduction  
Strategy  
(CatFire)**

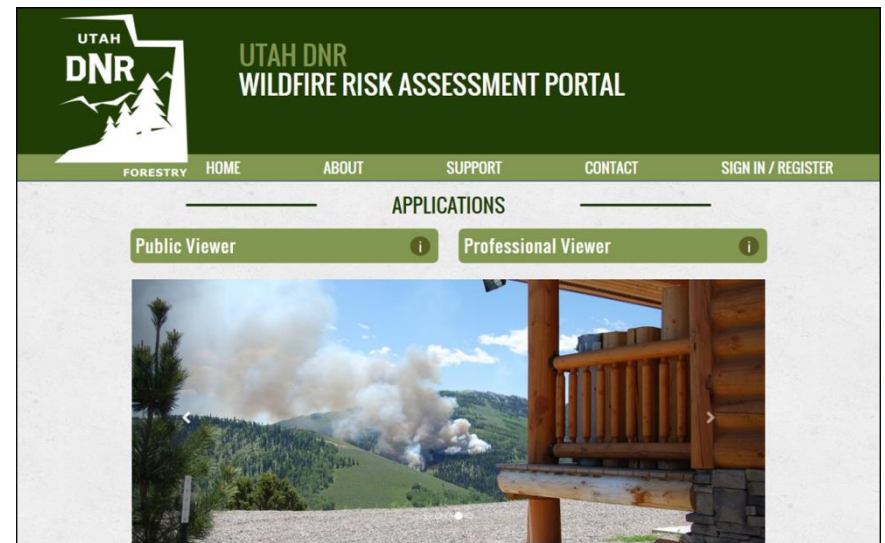
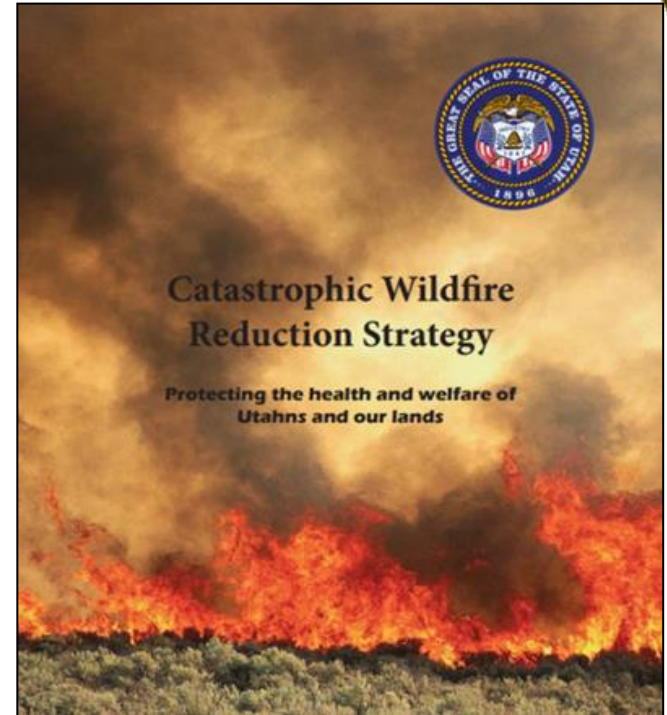
**Utah Wildfire  
Risk Assessment Portal  
(UWRAP)**

**Watershed  
Restoration  
Initiative  
(WRI)**

# **FIRE** public benefits

Avoiding the Total Costs of wildfire:

- Suppression costs
- Public & firefighter safety
- Loss of life
- Loss of property, homes and infrastructure
- Infrastructure shutdowns (e.g., highways & airports)
- Lost revenues to business (e.g., tourism)
- Air and water quality impacts
- Wildlife and habitat loss
- Post-fire rehabilitation costs
- Flooding and erosion
- Healthcare costs (e.g., respiratory)
- Evacuation costs





# UTAH'S 2020 FIRE SEASON

Setting the stage...from the National Weather Service:

- Driest year on record
- 16<sup>th</sup> driest water year
- 8<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record
- Unprecedented hot and dry conditions July-Dec
- Global pandemic=record number of people recreating or otherwise being outdoors and in wildland

Which leads to...





# UTAH'S 2020 FIRE SEASON

- 1,495 total wildfire across all jurisdictions  
(10 yr avg=1,200, so a 20% increase!)
- 1,154 human caused...a new record by far!
- 77% human caused, 23% lightning
- However, 90% of state & local fires were human-caused!
- 88% of all fires caught in initial attack  
(180 fires>10 acres)
- 329,758 total acres burned  
(10 yr avg=160,000)





# UTAH'S 2020 FIRE SEASON

- Estimated \$77+ million total costs all agencies
- Estimated \$32.4 million in State costs (*10 yr avg=\$13M*)
- Second most expensive fire season for state costs in history (*only behind 2018*)
- \$30 million dollar building block request to pay for 2020 fire season suppression & rehab
- \$60 million in Governor's Budget
- \$56 million in the base budget bill

**THANK YOU!!**



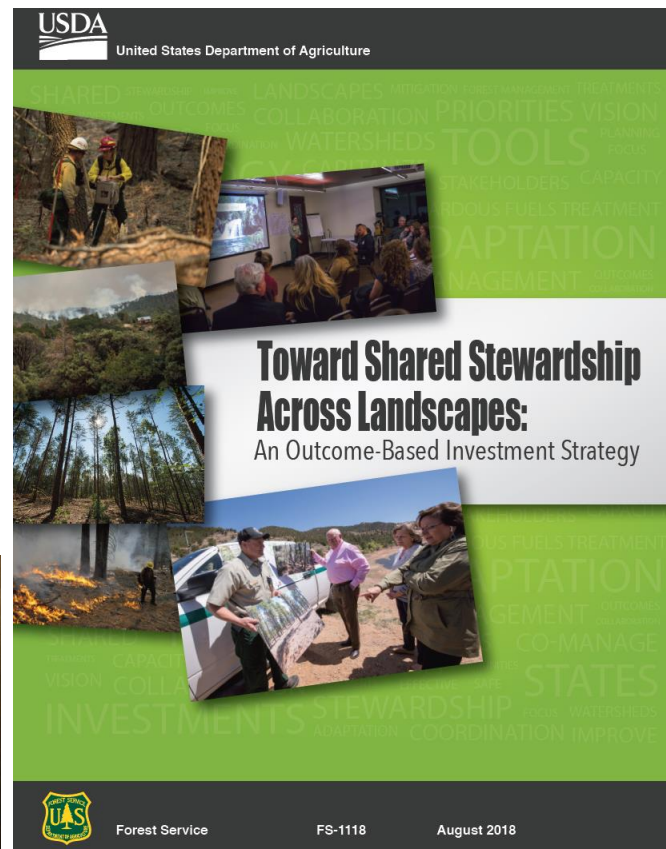
# FORESTRY

## FY22 Funding Request

### Shared Stewardship

\$1,500,000 one-time (GF)

Unlocks \$4M USFS match





# Utah Shared Stewardship



- Joint Prioritization, Shared Decision Making, and “A Way of Being”
- ~\$10 million in Shared Stewardship projects 2019-2020
- 14 projects, including one or more projects on all national forests in Utah
- Jointly developed key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Convening stakeholders statewide to leverage interests and resources to improve forest conditions



# Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

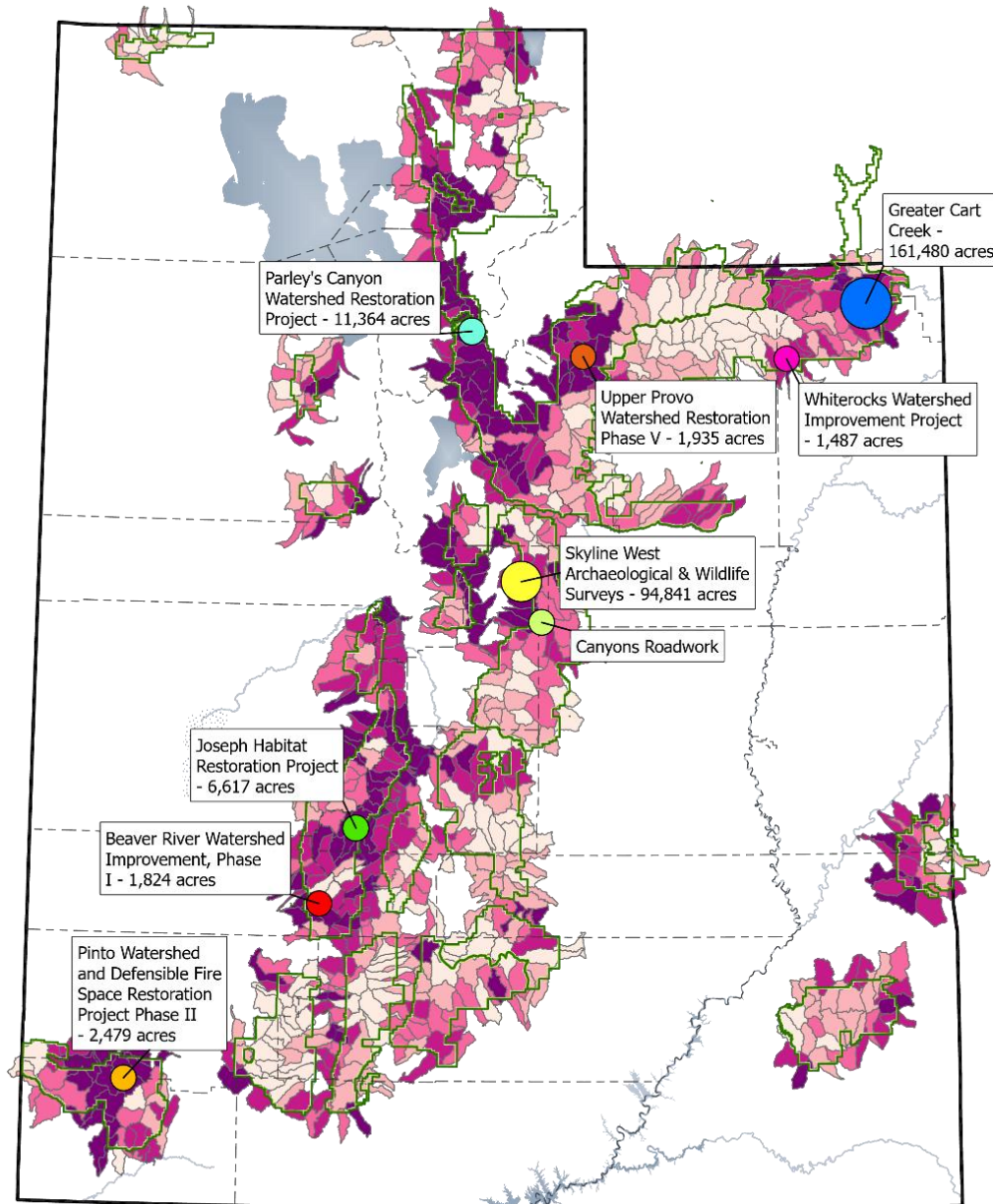
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# 2020 Shared Stewardship Projects



- Beaver River, Phase I
- Upper Provo, Phase V
- Pinto, Phase II
- Greater Cart Creek
- Skyline West
- Joseph
- Canyons - Roadwork
- Parley's Canyon
- Whiterocks

# Key Performance Indicators



National Forests in Utah













## Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) provide insight into how the agencies will measure the success of shared stewardship in Utah.



## Key Performance Indicators for Shared Stewardship in Utah

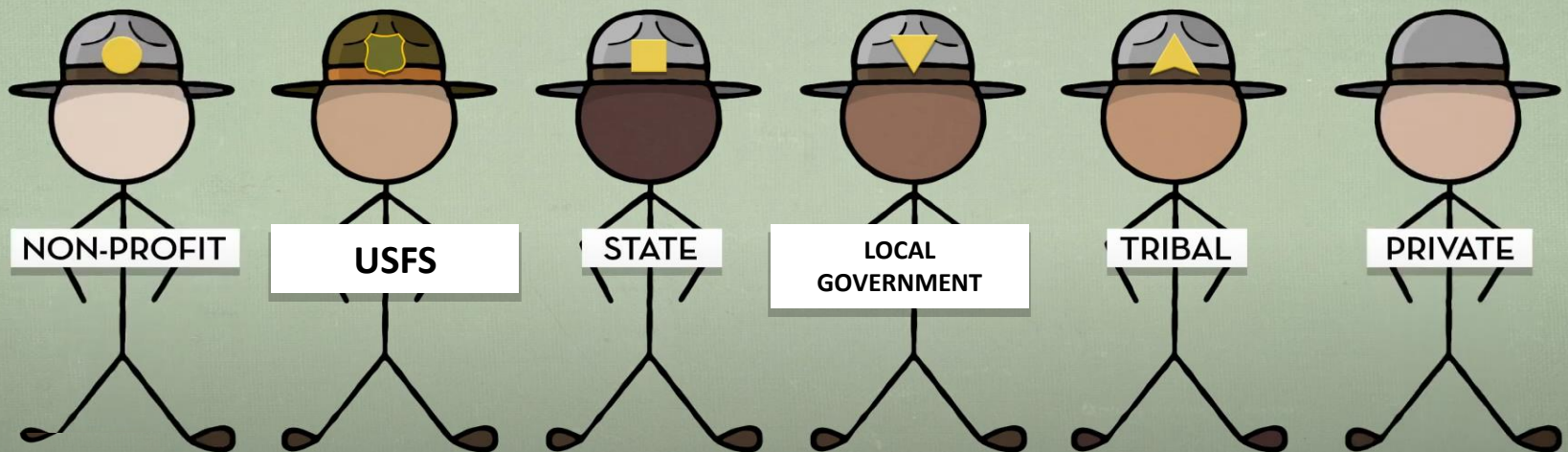
Relationships	Improving Forest Conditions	Process
<p>Continue to build on successful state-federal relationships at all organizational levels. Collectively build relationships with other partners</p> 	<p>Increase the number of acres directly and effectively treated in priority areas</p> 	<p>Share decision-making when establishing statewide and local priorities for Shared Stewardship</p> 
<p>Cultivate diverse community-based support for Shared Stewardship through engaging partners at the local and state levels</p> 	<p>Increase the number of acres treated on National Forest System land through management of natural ignitions</p> 	<p>Local, state and federal partners jointly agree on fire management priorities during preseason planning.</p> 
	<p>Decrease the number of human-caused fire starts</p> 	<p>Refine priority landscape maps to accurately reflect changes in landscape conditions</p> 
		<p>Use special authorities, such as Good Neighbor, that provide opportunities to improve forest conditions in coordination with state, tribal, and county partners</p> 
		<p>Increase forest-related economic opportunities in Utah</p> 



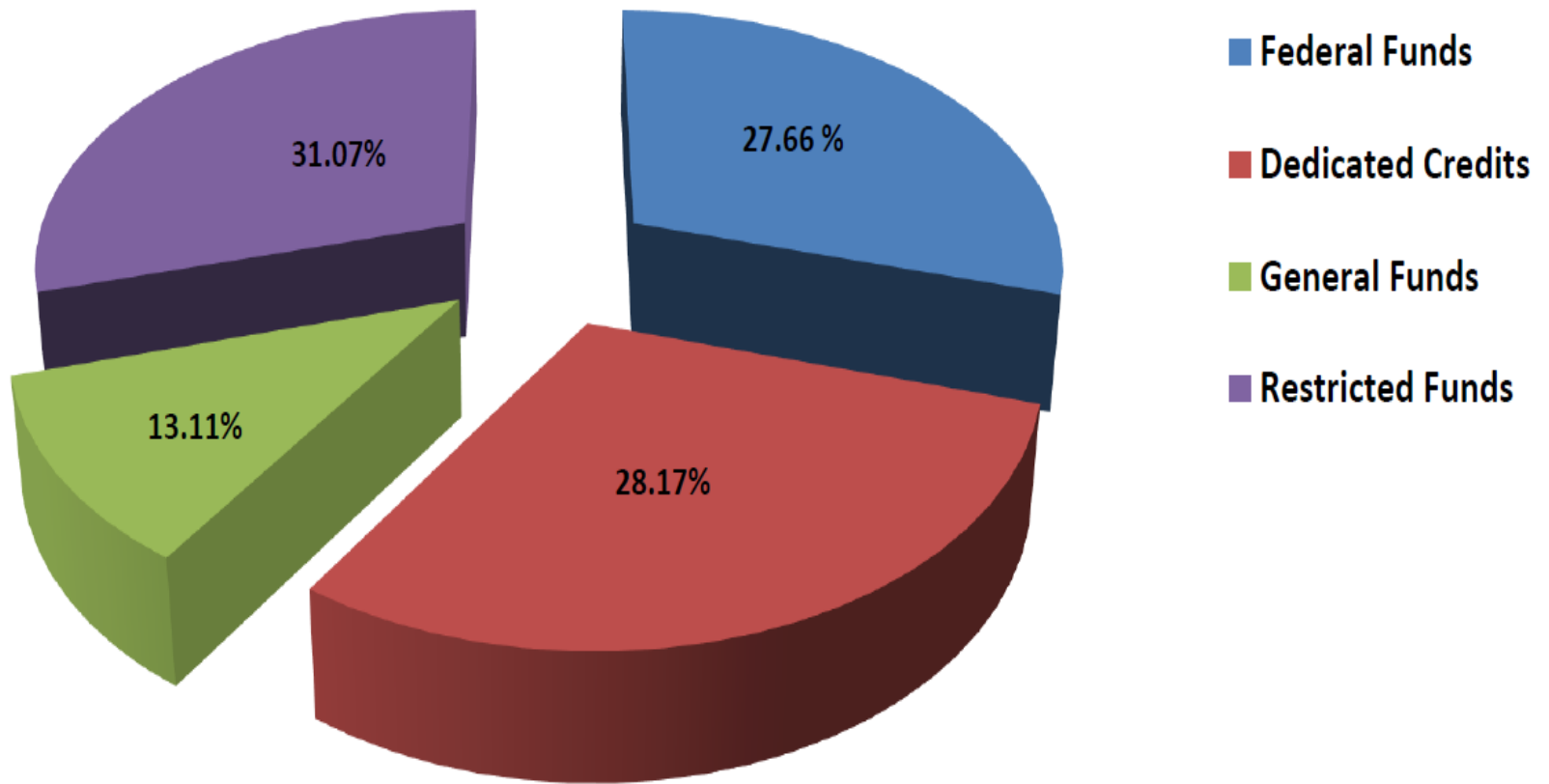
# Engaging Partners

In October 2020, over 100 partners statewide came together to:

- Identify common interests, themes and concerns from stakeholders and interest groups
- Introduce a Shared Stewardship framework for convening at a local level and get feedback from stakeholders
- Make and build important connections among land managers and stakeholders
- Explore how to bring more resources to support wildfire risk reduction efforts



# FY2022 BASE BUDGET REQUEST = \$24,205,200





# SOVEREIGN LANDS MANAGEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

**Revenue Projection for FY22 ~\$10.5M**

